

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR  
SUBJECT Explosive, Ammunition, and Armament Factories

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Explosives Factories

1. The largest explosives factory in the USSR is located at Sakamsk,\* a city of approximately 50,000 inhabitants which lies some 15 kilometers northwest of Molotov, in the Urals. The factory, which is currently being enlarged, is strongly guarded and is manned by politically reliable workers. No forced laborers are employed. At the plant and in its vicinity there are frequent test explosions and cannon are fired.
2. The Aleksin (54°31'N, 37°05'E) explosives plant is not appreciably smaller than the factory at Sakamsk. Aleksin lies some 60 kilometers east of Kaluga in the Tula district. The explosives plant, along with several related installations, including a grenade plant, was newly built after World War II. Half of the installations were operating by 1947. Some units of the plant were then working on special secret assignments.
3. The Zhukovka (53°02'N, 23°42'E) gunpowder factory is the third largest plant of its kind in the country. It lies 40 kilometers northwest of Bryansk on the road from Bryansk to Smolensk.\*\*
4. No details are available on the following explosives installations:
  - a. Dynamite factory at Beresovka (sic; Novaya Borisovka -- 47°06'N, 29°59'E), northwest of Odessa.
  - b. Fuse plant at Belokalitvinskaya, in the Donetsk region.
  - c. Explosives testing station northeast of Moscow.

Ammunition Factories

5. The following information has been reported concerning ammunition factories:
  - a. Aleksin: Produces artillery shells.
  - b. Lugansk, Donetsk Basin: Produces artillery shells.

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- c. Nikolayev, on the Black Sea: Manufactures infantry ammunition, including ammunition for the Soviet gas-action rifle and the German M-44 carbine (Sturmkarabiner 44).
  - d. Nizhni Tagil, in the Urals: Manufactures approximately 20,000 rocket projectiles per day; 170mm and 210mm are also produced.
  - e. Orsk, southern Urals: Produces artillery shells.
  - f. Stalino, Donets Basin: This plant consists of 18 buildings in which machinery from Bydgoszcz, Poland, has been installed. Three presses for 172mm shells and a double press for 57mm shells are among the machines with which the plant is equipped. Tank and anti-tank shells are manufactured. Electric power is obtained from Voroshilovsk.
  - g. Starybykhov, near Kiev: The small arms factory here also turns out ammunition for the 6.8mm machine pistol.
  - h. Chelyabinsk: Plant of approximately 3,000 workers produces 120mm mortar shells and 300mm howitzer shells.
  - i. Ushunka (sic: Uzhum?), in the Urals: Anti-aircraft ammunition is manufactured here; the plant has road and rail communications with Chelyabinsk.
6. The large Zavod Petrovenko between Stalino and Voroshilovgrad, which was completely destroyed during the war, has been rebuilt. Large block of dwelling houses were erected nearby in 1948. No information is available as to the nature of current production.
7. A foundry employing approximately 2,000 workers in the vicinity of the Iyublino suburb of Moscow is currently casting 100mm shell casings and air bomb casings ranging from one to three meters in length.
8. Munitions factories are located also in the following places but no information concerning them is available:

Arkhangelsk

Bakal, approximately 15 kilometers east of Chelyabinsk

Borovsk, near Molotov: Currently employs forced laborers, including former members of the Vlasov Army.

Bugulma, east of Kazan

Grozny, central Caucasus

Kemerovo, Siberia

Krasny Luch, near Stalino in the Donets Basin

Leningrad

Minsk

Novosibirsk

Molotov

Plavskoye, approximately 50 kilometers southwest of Tula on the railway line from Tula to Orël

Yalta

Yelabuga, Tatar ASSR: Has railway connections with Chistopol.

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Armament Factories

9. The following factories produce armaments:

Stalingrad: The Red Barricades Factory, with a complement of 65,000 workers, is the largest gun factory in the Soviet Union. Guns of the heaviest type for railway mountings, coastal defenses, and naval batteries are manufactured here. Steel is obtained from the Red October Factory.

Gorki: The second largest gun factory in the Soviet Union is located some five kilometers southwest of this city. Large-caliber gun barrels and anti-tank guns ranging in size from 37mm to 100mm are manufactured. The plant is equipped with 10 Siemens-Martin furnaces.

Izhevsk: A large rolling mill employing 20,000 workers produces short-barrelled cannon and 37mm and 57mm anti-tank guns.

Kolpino, near Leningrad: Shields for field pieces and anti-tank guns are produced at the armor plate factory.

Kuibyshev: The centrifuge factory produces machine pistols and 12.7mm aircraft machine guns. Another factory in Kuibyshev, a new one, manufactures machine gun ammunition belts.

Leningrad: The Stalin Factory in the Forel section of the city manufactures machine tools and guns for T-43 tanks.

Lugansk, Donets Basin: Plant producing barrels for field pieces.

Lyubertsy: An unconfirmed report states that a mortar factory is located here, 25 kilometers southeast of Moscow.

Molotov: A plant here produces guns of an unidentified type.

Rostov: The USSR's largest agricultural machinery plant, which is located in Rostov, has a section charged with the production of mortars and field guns.

Sakamsk (sic): A plant produces artillery pieces of an unidentified type.

Saratov: The tank factory manufactures 75mm. anti-tank guns and artillery pieces of 150 mm. and larger.

Sarukhov, south of Moscow: Produces barrels for field guns.

Starovykhov: A small arms production center manufacturing the following items: 6.8 mm machine pistols, snipers' rifles with telescopic sights, pistols, German M-44 carbines, Russian gas-action rifles, and Russian carbines with automatic firing attachments.

Troitsk: A plant here achieves an annual production of 79,000 machine pistols; a new type of machine gun and Rheinmetall-Borsig anti-aircraft guns in sizes up to 88mm are also manufactured.

Chelvabinsk: Tank Plant II manufactures 100mm anti-tank guns.

Tula: This city contains several plants for the production of carbines and water-cooled 20mm machine guns.

Ushumka (sic): A plant here manufactures infantry small arms and aircraft cannon.

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Comment: No such town is listed or shown on available maps. Source possibly means Solikamsk, about 180 km by air north of Molotov.

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\* Comment: Since Zhukovka is some 60 km or more from Bryansk, either source is mistaken about the distance from Bryansk or the factory is not actually in the town of Zhukovka. The Bryansk-Smolensk road does not pass through Zhukovka.